

August, 1999



Wastewater News



Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>

Working towards Clean Water



UPCOMING MEETINGS, CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

What is happening in August?

Go to the OW Calendar of Events site by clicking here

<<http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/news.nsf/owcalendar?OpenView&Grid=4&Date=1999-07-05>>

Upcoming Events

Urban Water Resource Tools

OWM, in cooperation with Region 5 and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, is co-sponsoring a National Conference on "Tools for Urban Water Resource Management and Protection" in Chicago, February 7 - 10, 2000. The conference will provide participants with practical, applied information on the most effective tools and technology for meeting NPDES permit requirements, and will emphasize the Phase II program's six minimum measures. For more information, see <http://www.nipc.cog.il.us/water_tools_2000.htm> or contact John Kosco on (202) 260-6385.

NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course

The objective of the NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course is to provide the basic regulatory framework and technical considerations that support the development of wastewater discharge permits as required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program. The course is designed for new permit writers highlighting the process of developing, issuing and complying with NPDES permits. The format of the course is a combination of lecture, case examples, and practical exercises that are geared to acquaint participants with the tools and resources available to assist them in writing NPDES permits. The training course lasts 5 days and there is no fee for attending. Due to popularity of this course, no space is currently available the rest of the year. New courses will be posted as soon as the dates and locations are confirmed. For more information please visit our website: <<http://www.epa.gov/owm/npdesup.htm>>. For more information, contact Jennifer Sachar on (202) 260-1389.

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC) Cosponsors Three Onsite System Training Sessions in August

Homeowner Training in Septic Systems and Wells. NETCSC will host a University of Maryland Extension Service course presentation on septic system and well operation and maintenance for homeowners August 26 at NETCSC in Morgantown, W. Va. Water Quality Specialist Tom Miller of the University of Maryland Extension Service who developed the course will conduct the training at NETCSC. For more information contact Betty B. Ford at 202-260-8510.

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West Virginia Trainers Benefit from Maryland Course. Water Quality Specialist Tom Miller will also deliver the above course tailored to trainers and assistance providers on August 27 at NETCSC in Morgantown. These trainers will in turn adapt the training to their own programs as they deliver similar training in other West Virginia locations in the coming year. The West Virginia University Extension Service and NETCSC's National Onsite Demonstration Project will cosponsor the program with NETCSC. For more information contact Betty B. Ford at 202-260-8510.

NETCSC Joins Two North Carolina State University Training Centers to Offer Onsite Training August 30 in Raleigh, North Carolina. North Carolina State University's (NCSU) National Training Center for Land-Based Technology and Watershed Protection and NCSU's Subsurface Wastewater System Operator Training School will offer a train-the-trainer program in how best to deliver onsite wastewater training and how to operate subsurface wastewater systems in North Carolina. Out-of-State trainers and participants will be able to transfer what they learn at the sessions to the training they do in other States. Other cosponsors besides NETCSC include the Northwest Onsite Wastewater Training Center in Olympia, Wash., and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. For more information contact Betty B. Ford at 202-260-8510.

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities National Conference

Panel of Experts Working With Tribes – Partnerships, Programs and Processes. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is hosting its 1999 RUS National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on August 17-20, 1999 at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel. They are sponsoring a panel session for its Program Directors and staff located in State Offices on working effectively with Indian Tribes. Panelists include: Sylvia Bell, EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, Chris Kinney, Indian Health Service, Tom Crawford, Native American Water Association, and Ron Thomson, Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP). Panel members will discuss the various financial and assistance programs they offer to Indian tribes. For more information, contact Sylvia Bell at (202) 260-7255.

National Drought Policy Commission

The first National Drought Policy Commission meeting and public hearing were held on July 22 and 23, 1999, respectively, at the Whitten Federal Building. The meeting was chaired by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. Senator Pete Domenici and Congressman Joe Skeen, the legislative sponsors of the law creating the Commission, gave their vision for a national policy. The commissioners then discussed goals, objectives and administrative procedures. Five people testified at the public hearing. The Commission tentatively scheduled their next meeting for November 4-5, 1999 in Washington, DC. An opportunity for the public to comment will be provided at the meeting. The National Drought Policy Act of 1998 established the National Drought Policy Commission to provide advice and recommendations on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies. For more information, contact John Flowers on 202-260-7288 or visit the NDPC website at www.fsa.usda.gov/drought/.

EPA/Water Environment Federation Pretreatment Training Courses

Two Pretreatment Training Courses are now offered. The EPA Office of Wastewater Management is continuing to co-sponsor Pretreatment Training Courses with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) in 1999 by offering both Fundamentals and Advanced courses. The Advanced course is not available at this time.

The Fundamentals (or "Basic") Course is designed to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework on the development and implementation of pretreatment programs. The Course is recommended for environmental professionals responsible for implementing the Pretreatment Program at the local level, for industrial dischargers and consultants, and is especially designed for individuals that are new to the program. The 1999 schedule for this course is: September 20-21 - Portland, Oregon and September 23-24, 1999 - Laughlin, Nevada.

For more information, contact Patrick Bradley at (202) 260-6963.

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Youth and the Environment Training and Employment Program

Start up at the various Youth and the Environment sites are operating in August. There will be approximately 35 students trained in different aspects of the environment. A visit to the sites in Chester, Pennsylvania and New York City will be conducted by Headquarters in early August. Please contact Curt Baranowski on (202) 260-5806 for information regarding the above-mentioned matter.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting in the NPDES Program

EPA is proposing changes to its NPDES regulations to allow reports and other information to be submitted electronically. When EPA promulgated the current NPDES regulations, the Agency did not anticipate the need for electronic reporting. Consequently, the current regulations do not specifically address use of electronic reporting technologies. The proposed rule would establish criteria for electronic reporting and a specific process and conditions for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to EPA. The proposal addresses electronic signature, certification, and record keeping requirements that permittees would follow when submitting forms to EPA electronically. We expect to publish a proposed rule this summer. For more information, contact Brian Frazer on (202) 260-0101.

Final Rule for NPDES Municipal Permit Application Forms and Regulatory Revisions

The current NPDES Permit Application regulations and forms have been revised and published. They will be available on the Office of Wastewater Management web site this month. This amendment to the Clean Water Act changes program requirements and emphasis. This action also develops a sewage sludge permit application form and revises permit application regulations to foster the issuance of permits implementing the Agency's standards for sludge use or disposal. For more information, contact Wendy Bell on (202) 260-9534.

Streamlining the General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution (Proposed Rulemaking #2040-AC58)

The published proposal streamlines portions of the National Pretreatment Program (40 CFR 403) to reduce the burden from technical and administrative requirements that affect industrial users, Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and Regional and State Control Authorities. This information will be available on the Office of Wastewater Management web site this month. For further information, contact Jeff Smith on (202) 260-5586.

Direct Final Rule for EPA's Clean Water Act Awards

A draft direct final rule is currently being developed for EPA's Clean Water Act awards. The rule will formalize the eligibility requirements, nominations process, application provisions and selection criteria for the Office of Wastewater Management's National Wastewater Management Excellence Awards programs. The rule will include programs for Operations and Maintenance, Beneficial Use of Biosolids, Pretreatment, Storm Water Management and Combined Sewer Overflow Controls. For more information, contact Maria Campbell on (202) 260-5815.

OTHER INFORMATION

National Onsite Demonstration Project

The National Onsite Demonstration Project, funded by Congress through EPA's budget and administered by the National Small Flows Clearinghouse is entering its fifth phase of funding. Begun in 1993, the project has received \$6 million of funding for the purpose of demonstrating alternative onsite and decentralized wastewater technologies and management programs. A broad range of alternative technologies have been installed in the 13 states who are currently participating.. Copies of a report to Congress on the program or of a report summarizing Phase I results may be obtained from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse at 800-624-8301. For more information, contact Steve Hogle (202) 260-5841.

END OF REPORT